

UPI-65

(POWERS)

THE FATHER OF SOVIET-HELD U-2 PILOT FRANCIS G. POWERS SAID TODAY HE WANTED TO SEE HIS SON BEFORE HIS ESPIONAGE TRIAL STARTS AND MAKE A LAST-MINUTE SYMPATHY PLEA TO RUSSIAN PREMIER KHRUSHCHEV.

OLIVER POWERS, A 55-YEAR-OLD SHOE REPAIRMAN FROM NORTON, VA., ARRIVED HERE WITH HIS AILING WIFE TO DISCUSS THEIR SON'S CASE WITH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS BEFORE LEAVING TO ATTEND THE MOSCOW TRIAL.

THE GRIM-FACED FATHER, WHO SAID HE ALREADY HAS WRITTEN TWO APPEALS TO KHRUSHCHEV FOR AID, SAID HE WOULD TRY TO MAKE A PERSONAL CALL ON THE SOVIET PREMIER. THE POWERS ARE DUE IN MOSCOW LATER THIS WEEK.

HE ALSO SAID HE HAS "HOPES" OF SEEING FRANCIS, WHO WILL BE 31 ON AUG. 17 -- THE DAY HIS TRIAL BEGINS -- BEFORE THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

"MY WIFE AND I HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT WE CAN SEE HIM AFTER THE TRIAL," HE ADDED.

POWERS SAID HE ALSO HAD BEEN ASSURED BY THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY HERE THAT HE COULD SIT IN ON THE TRIAL.

8/E--E133P

*Also earlier UPI, Powers (father)
saying that American people had
already "tried" his son, &
regarded him as a "spy"*